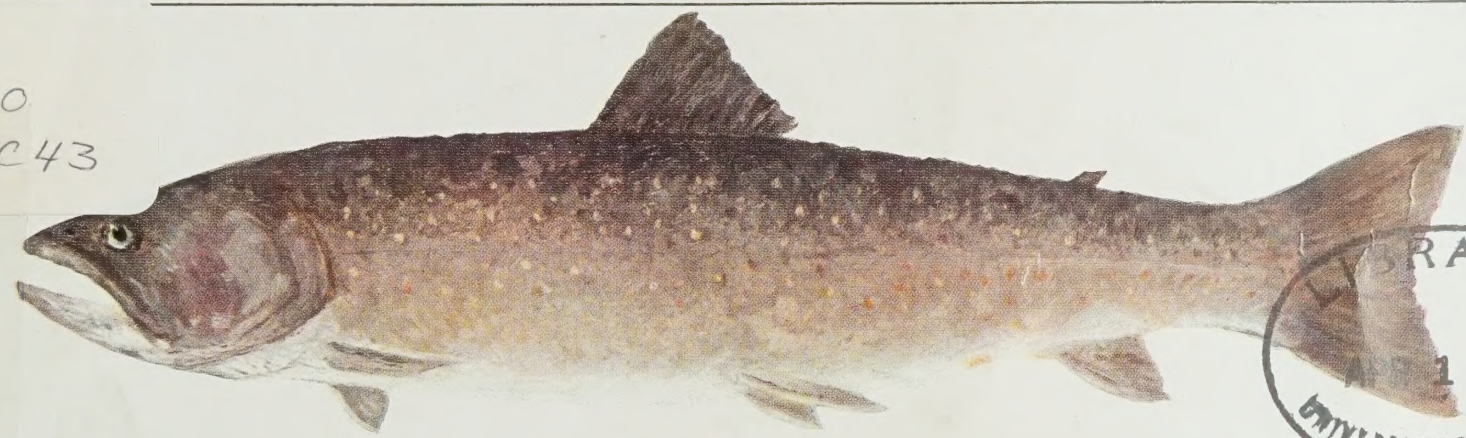


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Canada National Parks Bureau

CLASSIFIED GUIDE, *to* FISH *and* THEIR HABITAT, *in the* ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK

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A DOLLY VARDEN TROUT

Issued by the DOMINION PARKS BRANCH, *of the*
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR, OTTAWA, CAN.



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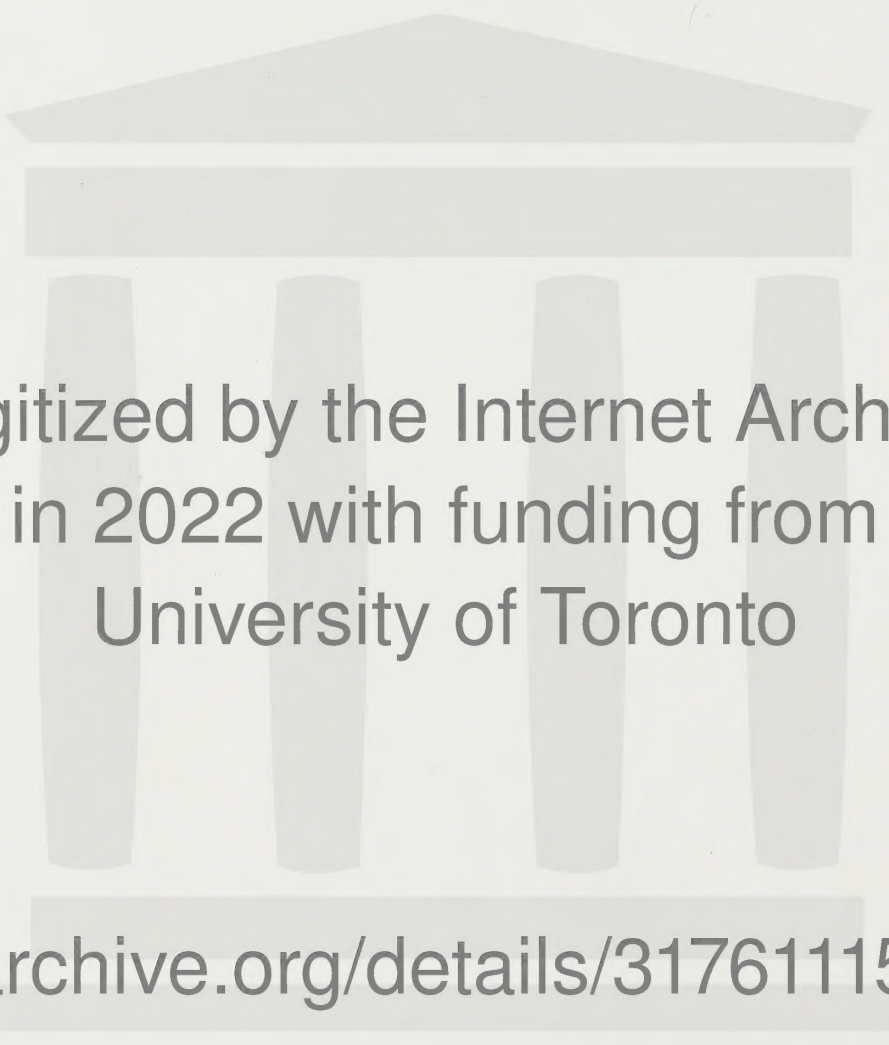
CLASSIFIED GUIDE
TO
FISH AND THEIR HABITAT
IN
THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK

COMPILED AND ILLUSTRATED BY

S. C. VICK

Fishery Inspector

DOMINION PARKS BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OTTAWA



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CLASSIFIED GUIDE TO FISH AND THEIR HABITAT

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK

The Rocky Mountains Park, with an area of some eighteen hundred square miles of mountains, lakes and streams, possesses in itself a lure and charm almost impossible to describe.

With these lakes and streams stocked with that game fish, the Mountain Trout, the angler will find both sport and pleasure combined.

To assure a continual supply of these game fish, the Government has established hatcheries and soon thousands of young trout will be turned into the streams.

In issuing this booklet the Department is not only considering the angler, but all lovers of nature in the wild. Followers of the kodak and rod will equally find subject for study and pleasure in these glorious mountains and valleys.

In illustrating this work the artist has not tried to appeal to the "fish hog," by painting a clothes line hung with four or five hundred fish (caught in fifteen minutes) but has endeavoured to portray that which appeals most strongly to the true angler—the locality itself—feeling sure that the sight of water splashing over rocks then swirling into eddies flecked with foam, will 'touch the spot' and make him mentally exclaim "Ah, there's the place where the five-pounders lie waiting for the dainty fly to drop" and he would be right, for it is in that kind of pool that you get them.

There are many such pools in the park waiting for the angler, or if he prefers lake fishing there are lovely, quiet mountain-locked lakes which will appeal to him as nothing else in the world can. At evening, when the afterglow purples the water and the big fellows are jumping after flies, the joy that only an angler at such times feels may be his to the full.

Or, if he wishes to vary the sport, Lake Minnewanka and a thirty-pounder at the end of a trawling line can be his in season.

To reach most of these lakes a journey on horseback is necessary and to those who have never experienced the wild abandon of a pony trip through the passes, I would say with Gunner Pyecroft " Bug an 'am and see life." You will need the ham by the time the ride is over and you will see western life and hear it too if you listen to the packer and he feels that way which he generally does.

Everyone on such trips takes a kodak and the only grievance will be that there is not enough daylight for all you will want to take.

Another way of travel is to take the canoe trip from Castle Mountain to Banff, some forty miles of river with some of the best fly fishing in the Park and rapids swift enough to give you a thrill or two and a little water thrown in for good measure.

Of all the streams in the Park the Bow River is the most important, extending from the Power dam at Seebe to the Bow Lakes some forty miles beyond Laggan. All the other streams and creeks empty into it, and with all these waters containing game fish some idea may be had of the fine fishing possibilities conserved by the Government as a heritage for the Canadian people. To aid in that conservation the regulations governing this sport will be enforced without fear or favour.

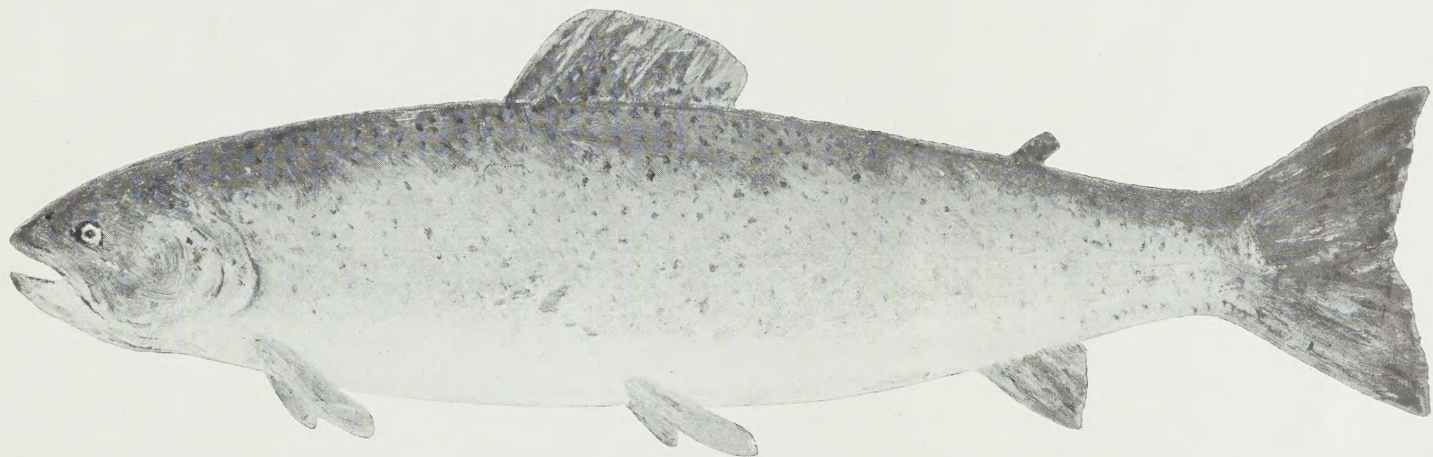
GAME FISH IN THE PARK

The six game fish having their habitat in the Park are :

The Cut Throat Trout (*Salmo Clarkie*).
The Lake Trout (*Cristovomer Namaycush*).
The Brook Trout (*Salvelinus Fontinalis*) introduced.
The Dolly Varden (*Salvilinus Parkei*).

The Bull Trout, of the same series.
The Rocky Mountain Whitefish
(*Coregonus Williamsonii*).
Not game : Suckers (*Cutostonus Commersone*).

The first of these game fish, in weight, is the Lake Trout of Lake Minnewanka. This lake is the only water in the Park in which this particular fish is found. They run to 40 lbs. in weight, are cannibalistic and voracious feeders and, though strong and swift swimmers, do not put up a big fight when hooked.



A BOW RIVER CUT THROAT

At the opening of the season, 1st June, the largest fish are taken, one thirty-pounder and a number of twenty-pounders being taken during this month in 1913. Numbers of small ones, from three to ten pounds were also caught up to the end of the season, August 31st. In the early days of the Park, the mode of fishing was from a raft with a large hook and a pound of beef for bait (and regrettable to say, many wagon loads were taken in that way). At present the trawling line with spoon, sometimes with a piece of fish or beef on the hook, is the successful bait.

According to Indian legendary lore, there used to be a monster fish roaming around the lake on the lookout for good Indians.

These fish greatly resemble the Lake Superior Trout, both in colour of flesh and appearance. They do not go out into the streams and how these still water fish ever got into this mountain-locked lake, and into no others in the mountains, is a question I have been unable to solve. If Great Bear Lake in the far north, or Lake Superior is their original home, the wonder increases.

The next fish in size are the Dolly Varden Trout and the Bull Trout. The only difference between these two fish is the colour, the spots on both are the same shade of red and their habits are the same. They are cannibalistic and greedy feeders,—will take anything you offer them, but prefer a live minnow. They are found in nearly all the mountain lakes and streams, spawn in the small creeks in the late fall, then return to the deeper waters for the winter. They run to 20 pounds. I have seen one taken from the Bow River, near Banff, which weighed $19\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. Often in the summer these fish can be seen in a small stream lying below a rapid taking in the flies as they float on the water. At such times they give fair sport to the fly fisher. In deep river pools a very large one will often follow a hooked fish right up to your hand. At such times if you fix some strong hooks near the tail of your smaller fish and throw him in, the big fellow will take it like a shark. They prey upon the grayling and young suckers principally. This trout is a most accommodating creature for, no matter how many times you may lose him, he will always come back and have another crack at it. They are excellent table fish and can be caught by anyone who can hold a rod.

The Cut Throat Trout is without doubt the game fish of the mountains. He gets where no other fish can, is a strong, swift swimmer and takes the fly in July and August with a snap that thrills the angler with delight. It must not be understood that when jumping he will take any fly you wish to offer. By no means, he is a dainty chap and if you do not cater to his taste you simply get no fish.

I was with a party of anglers on the Upper Spray River, last August, when the fish were jumping in grand style. Some tried spinners and beef and any amount of gaudy flies but without result so the rest left the pool in disgust. Making up my mind to stay with it I got out my fly book intending to try every kind and size of

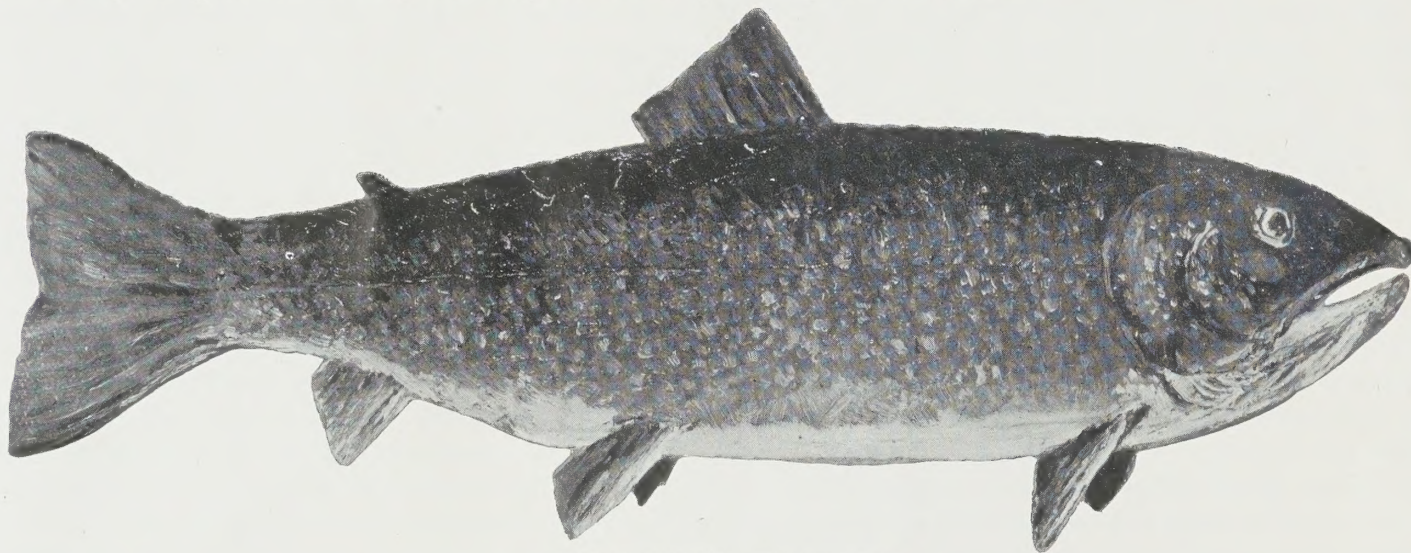
fly before leaving. I put on a No. 6 Coachman and my cast had hardly hit the water before a battle royal was on. My day's fishing was ended right there, for I took five red bellied beauties that together went 16 pounds.

It is not uncommon to get two or three fish on your cast at one time. Then, of course, your work is cut out for you and it may string your nerve up a trifle, but if you win out and land your three fish you certainly have something to remember. At such times you must not hesitate to step into the water even though it is icy cold. Handled from the water, one has a better chance to manoeuvre the fish.

These fish come out into the shallow streams in the early spring and spawn well on into June. In July they take the fly in the lakes, and along into August, when the high water is over, they are to be found in the eddies and swift waters below a rock or break of any kind, such as a log jam, always ready to dart up and pick up a fly. You may be sure if you strike a four or five-pounder in front of one of these log jams, there will be something doing. I have known a five-pounder give an hour and twenty minutes of nerve racking suspense under conditions of that kind. They will jump clear, then go to the bottom, nose down and sulk as though they thought you would get impatient and jerk your line, which would, of course, mean losing your fish and cast. A strange thing about these fish is that they fight in some streams ten times as hard as in others and also change in colour, taking on the prevailing tints of the rocks and bottom. There are several lakes in the Park, high up among the mountains, where the connecting creek is small and very steep. In these lakes the fish are not large, not more than a pound and a half at best. Not being an ichthyologist, I cannot be sure of the cause, but I believe this is the fault of inbreeding and that if these waters had connecting streams so that mature fish could freely pass back and forth these small fish would grow to a larger size.

The Brook Trout were introduced into these mountain waters, a few years ago from the celebrated Nipigon district. That they have adapted themselves to the conditions of the mountain stream life is shown by the number and quality of the fish caught this (1913) season. There is little need of saying much about these fish as every angler knows them well. They are said to be rank cannibals as are most of our native fish. They are an excellent table fish and a gamey fly taker. They spawn in small streams late in October

then return to deep water. Like all trout they run up stream in the spring. The sight of these fish in the spawning season in the shallow water of a limpid stream is one to be remembered. Their brilliant colours can be compared with nothing else than a bird of paradise swimming under water. How these fish have learned that certain living springs do not freeze at the bottom and then overflow is a query; that they know is beyond question as they can only be found spawning in such creeks



A MINNEWANKA LAKE TROUT

The Rocky Mountain Whitefish, locally known as the Grayling, is found in almost all the Park lakes and streams. They run as high as two pounds in weight. This is a clean little game fish, even if he does follow the other fish when spawning to eat up the spawn, as he is said to do. He takes the fly at all times and puts up a good fight for his size.

A house fly on the tiniest of hooks is the "dope" he likes. He spawns in the fall, then comes down into deeper water, where he is taken in great numbers chiefly by the small boy, and is much liked as a food fish.

The Mountain Sucker, though not taken as a food fish by anyone who can get anything else to eat, is at least a novelty in the Park. People who do not know often take him for a mountain trout. That he is a strong swimmer is proved by his being with us for nothing but a strong swimmer can get up the Kananaskis Falls at Seebe. He is found everywhere, but principally in the shallow and warm Vermilion Lakes where he breeds, some say too fast, coming out into the rivers and streams occasionally to "mop up" trout spawn. However, he does not have it all his own way for, when the high water is on and the streams are opaque with mountain wash, the Dolly Varden and Bull Trout lay for him at the mouth of the clear streams that come out of the lakes.

It is an interesting sight when the suckers gather to mate in a small clear spring near the Vermilion Lakes in the spring. They can be heard for some distance splashing around and frolicking as gay as kittens. The crimson streak along the body makes them look very pretty, even if one does not care to angle for them.

THE FALLS OF THE BOW AND KANANASKIS RIVER AT SEEBE ON THE C.P.R.

Just below the junction of these rivers, where their combined waters once dashed over the rocks in a lovely fall, the growing needs of commerce have made necessary the building of a gigantic power dam that has silenced the music of these falls and caused their one time foaming cataract to join the waters below by means of underground tunnels. The pools and swirling eddies below, where the fish used to rest ere taking the mighty leap that carried them up the falls on their spring migration to the head waters, fortunately remain and anglers will, no doubt, still find fish and pleasure awaiting them at this point.

Above, instead of the junction of rivers, is now a lake and it cannot be any stretch of imagination to suppose that in a few years this locality may be one of the great fishing points in the mountains. To those anglers who are not afraid of a swift canoe run, the trip from Banff to this point will give results in fishing and

an outing to be remembered with great pleasure. There is no need to hurry a canoe trip of this kind ; there are lots of lovely spots in which to camp and some of the best pools in the Bow River to fish on the way down.

I do not wish it understood that anyone who can sit upright in a canoe may venture this trip. Far from it, one must know what swift water canoeing means before taking this run. After the high water in August and early September is the time for the trip. Then the Cut Throat rise to the fly as at no other time. Every variety of fish known in the mountains is to be taken in this river, with the exception of Lake Minnewanka Trout. The only expense entailed by this trip is that for canoe hire.

THE TWIN FALLS OF THE UPPER KANANASKIS RIVER

This lovely bit of dashing water is situated half way between the upper and lower Kananaskis Lakes and will well repay the exertion of walking there even if you do not whip the stream with cast and fly rod. The best spot is where the stream empties into the lower lake. I remember it well, for here I made connection with a whopper Cut Throat. While here do not fail to visit the Upper Lake which is only half a mile away on a good trail. If a delightful surprise does not await you there, I will never tell another fish story. This lake has no fish in it as yet but its beauties will appeal to every nature lover. I really doubt whether in all this broad land a lovelier spot is to be found. To put such a picture on a small canvas would not do it justice. Imagine a body of limpid water two or three miles square ; numerous islands, wooded to the water's edge, locked on three sides with mountains of the first class, glaciers in the distance, a glorious cascade water-fall a thousand feet in the air on the far side, and sunset wrapping the peaks and reflecting the golden warmth on the placid bosom of the lake below with only the call of the loon to break the stillness—such is the picture that breaks upon you at the turn of the trail. If you are a camera lover you will go right up to the pole with a rush and call for films.

THE LOWER KANANASKIS RIVER

This river in the early summer after the high water gives fine fly fishing, the Cut Throat being the most in evidence. A wagon road will take you for nearly twenty miles towards the head waters, a pack trail the

rest of the way to the lake. The starting point is Morley or Seebe on the railway. This river splits just before coming to the lakes, the right branch running right up to the Spray summit. This branch also yields good sport with the fish and lots of fun getting the cayuses through the fallen timber. At a camping place where



A REDEARTH CREEK CUT THROAT

Indian tepee poles stand you will find a game warden's cabin (known as the 'Chateau Peyto') and below this a lovely water-fall which is a favorite subject for the camera artist.

THE LOWER KANANASKIS LAKE

The area of this lake is about three square miles, the altitude 5,400 feet above sea level. Beautifully wooded all around, it forms one of the delightful spots of the Rockies. It can be reached in a three-day horse-back journey from Banff, also from Morley and Seebe.

This lake has been for many years the fish supply depot for the Morley Stoney Indians and contains the

finest Cut Throat Trout in the mountains. These fish are the most delicate of table fish, their flesh being of the deepest salmon red, and they are fighters from start to finish.

The Dolly Vardens and Silver Trout are also found there at their best, also the Rocky Mountain Whitefish.

July, August and September are the best months for fly fishing. The spinner, a minnow or a piece of beef will also get results. As yet there are no boats or canoes on the lake, so one must carry a canoe or portable canvas boat unless contented to fish from some likely point on its shore, and as the water is deep enough to float a dreadnought and of an icy coldness, one's canoe or boat should be thoroughly seaworthy.

In most of these mountain lakes, the fish 'school' around, so one must have patience and look for them, but when you catch one you may be sure it will not be a minnow.

THE SPRAY LAKES

The altitude of these lakes is about 5,600 feet above sea level with an area of about three square miles. Two of these lakes have good fishing, the other is so small as to be hardly worthy the name of lake. The last one, as you strike them from the Banff trail, is the great fishing lake. This one has been well fished ever since white men have been in the country and, I am sorry to say, not always lawfully. Being only fifteen miles from the coal mines at Canmore, the miners, especially when a strike is on, have used this lake more or less as a meal ticket, taking tons of these game fish even in spawning time, and often using a dynamite cartridge as bait. In spite of this slaughter good fishing is yet to be had there.

The Government has now taken in hand the conservation and guarding of these precious fish reservoirs and the dynamiter, if caught, will be summarily dealt with. With the hatchery at Banff also turning millions of Cut Throat into the streams every year, these lakes will soon be restocked.

Cut-Throat, Silver and Dolly Varden Trout run very large both in the lakes and in the streams entering into and running out of the lakes. July and August are the best fly-fishing months. A raft or punt is best for lake work with spinner or beef for Silver or Dolly Varden Trout. Rocky Mountain Whitefish and Suckers are also here in plenty.

These lakes are twenty-eight miles from Banff over a good trail, with fine scenery to add to the pleasure of a delightful pony ride. There is a game guardian stationed at these lakes to see that no one fished illegally or otherwise violates the Park regulations.

THE UPPER SPRAY FALLS

This is the last fishing point on this fine stream, the Falls being too much even for Cut Throat to get up. In the near future fish will be put in above the Falls in the hope of stocking the upper waters, which include a number of lovely lakes.



A MOUNTAIN NIPPAGON TROUT—MALE

A fine stream joins this river about two miles below the Falls. In August this spot seems to be a rendezvous for the largest of the Cut Throat tribe. They lie in the foam-flecked swirl below the Falls and snap up the flies and when one of them takes your lure you are likely to have some excitement.

THE LOWER SPRAY FALLS

The Spray joins the Bow River at Banff, a rapid and limpid stream indeed. Five miles above begin the series of falls and canyons that makes the locality one of the beauty spots of the Park. Deeply wooded with dark green firs, the drive for twenty miles follows almost continually the windings of this splendid river. Below the old lumber camp, eight miles up stream, the first falls occur. From here the fishing begins and can be followed right up to the lakes, twenty miles away. Half a mile above the first camp, where there is a bridge, the second falls with the big canyon takes you by surprise. At this falls many a splendid catch of Cut Throat has been taken.

To drive to the old camp on a splendid summer day and to spend the daylight there with rod and camera, will give sporting pleasure such as only a day in the open with nature can give. Pure air, pure water and snappy fly-taking trout, is what an angler considers the joy of living. You can get it here. August, after the high water and the log drive are over, is the best time to fish this stream. Fly and spinner will prove the lures for a good day's sport as Dolly Varden and Silver Trout are both to be had.

A BIT OF BOOM LAKE

This lake has an altitude of 6,200 feet above sea level with an area of about three square miles. It is almost a duplicate of the famous Lake Louise. Situated on the Vermilion summit, fifteen miles south of Castle Mountain and five miles west from the automobile road now being built through Alberta and British Columbia, this point bids fair in the near future to be extremely attractive to mountain climbers and anglers. There is a splendid glacier and water fall at the west end and the fishing is unexcelled for Cut Throat, Dolly Varden, Silver and Bull Trout, also Rocky Mountain Whitefish. Fly, beef and minnow are the baits generally used in these lakes.

Five miles east of the automobile road, also on Vermilion summit, are the Twin Lakes and almost below the Twins at the foot of Storm Mountain, there is another lake, green as an emerald in a green setting also with the same trout as in the other lakes. There are other small lakes near by, but no fish. One branch of

the little Vermilion Creek drains Boom Lake. The other Branch drains the Green and the Twin Lakes. In a proper angling sense many of these lakes have never been fished. Here and there a prospector or packer may have fished with a bent pin and a piece of string so that the angler is here an explorer as well as a fisherman and should, therefore, not expect to make a record catch in any of these summit lakes fished at venture on a first visit.

THE HOGARTH LAKES

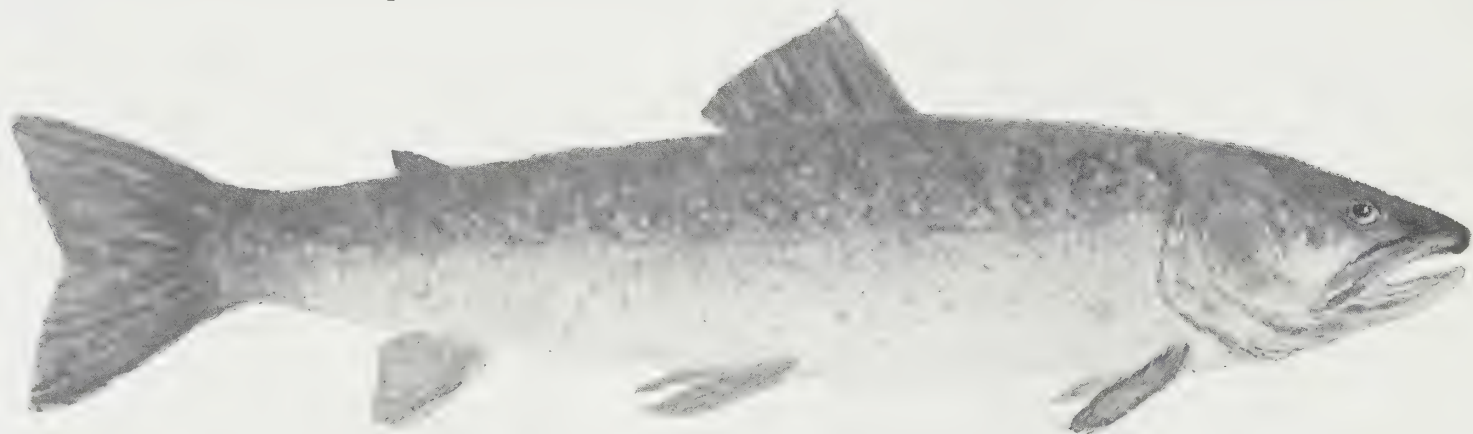
Altitude about 6,000 feet above sea level.

These lakes are two of a group of five small lakes nestling within a mile of each other on the summit of the Pass leading to the Kananaskis Lakes, one of the others being Mud Lake, the rest are unnamed. The Hogarths drain one way into the Spray River. The water in the Hogarth is of a light green colour but the others are of a grey mud colour showing strong glacier sediment. This glacier sediment does not seem detrimental to fish, for there are plenty of them, Cut Throat, Dolly Varden, and Silver Trout, also Rocky Mountain Whitefish and Suckers. They will take any bait you like to offer with the exception of angle worms, That is a food that none of the mountain fish seem to know anything about. These lakes are small in size but can be writ large for beauty, veritable gems in a dark green setting with glaciers and mighty peaks in the background. They are ten miles from the Spray Lakes and about forty from Banff. The valley of this Pass is of parklike beauty, meadows and trees and wild timothy grass in abundance. The trail is not the best in the world, but with patience and a few cuss words, one can get a pack horse through.

RUNNING THE UPPER BOW RIVER

On this trip, from either Eldon or Castle Mountain on the railway, you may have the double pleasure of a canoe trip on the lovely Bow and a chance to fish some of the best pools in that river. This run should only be taken after the high water, I mean of course, if you are after fish. Then the pools have the best fly takers of the season, all other mountain fish can also be taken. I mean the Cut Throat when I speak of fly takers.

For the other trout the spinner or minnow will prove a sure bait. This run can be done in a day but to do the river justice the trip should be extended over two or three days. The canoe may be taken by train and easily carried the short distance required to the river.



A SILVER OR BULL TROUT

A stopover at Redearth Creek will give you a chance at the dark coloured Cut Throat, whose fighting qualities are more strongly in evidence here than at any other point in the mountains. There are also plenty of opportunities for the camera lover.

The whirlpool and canyon, a short distance away, are the big attractions and just below this creek are the rapids and if you do not care to shoot them yourself in the canoe, you can land, walk on ahead and take a picture of her as she comes through with your guide.

It must be well understood that no one should attempt this trip unless the pilot is a swift water canoe man. With that understood, if you once make this fishing run, you will always want to repeat it. Well known anglers who have made this trip all agree that it is the most enjoyable of all the fishing trips they have had.

THE LOWER BOW OR HECTOR LAKE

This lake is twelve miles from Laggan, altitude 5,690 feet, with an area slightly larger than the Upper Bow Lake.

The same fish are to be caught here as in the other lakes and under the same conditions with this added advantage that if you don't have luck in the big lake you may walk up hill to Lake Margaret where you will find cut-throat trout only not so large. And if you carry a camera another walk still farther up will bring you to lovely Lake Turquoise where there are no fish but plenty of scenery that will repay you for the climb. A good pony trail will take you to the lake and you can fly-fish the Bow River at the same time.

THE UPPER BOW LAKE

This lake is up in the great glacial belt, altitude 6,420 feet above sea level, with an area of about three square miles. The largest fish of their kind are to be found here : Dolly Vardens, Silver and Cut Throat Trout. There are no boats here so you must use a raft and make it yourself.

Spinner, minnow or beef will tempt the big fellows, though in the river you may cast your fly for the big Cut Throat. After the spring freshets are over is the only time worth trying. Two days' horseback riding will take you there over a safe but wet trail.

THE UPPER CLEARWATER LAKES

Too much cannot be said of the fishing in these lovely gems of sapphire. Briefly, all the different kinds of mountain trout are there and of good size. Some notable catches of large trout have been taken in these lakes and the fish are very keen.

The altitude of this lake is about 7,000 feet above sea level, the area about a mile square, and it is reached by a three days' horse journey from Laggan over the Pipestone Summit trail. There are two Clearwater

lakes, also other small lakes and streams with fish in this locality, yielding sport to the angler and subjects for the camera artist.

MYSTIC LAKE

This lake is only seventeen miles from Banff and has yielded more fish than most of the other lakes. The altitude is about 6,000 feet above sea level. The area is about half a mile square. It is reached by pack trail via Mt. Edith Pass. Though the fish are small, not running more than two pounds, they bite greedily at almost any bait that you care to offer. Near the mouth of the glacial spring that enters the lake, the best fishing is usually found. There is also a good spot where the stream leaves the lake.

Seven miles farther on is Sawback Lake, with about the same area and the same class of fish, Cut Throat, Silver and Dolly Varden Trout. Mystic Lake drains into Forty Mile Creek, the Sawback into Cascade Creek.

A BIT OF THE GHOST RIVER

This wild mountain stream has two branches called the North and South Forks. With a number of tributary streams the river drains a large portion of the eastern slope of the Rockies. The name Ghost is supposed to have been given it, because the stream, or part of it at least, disappears for a time and comes up in the spring. According to Indian legend, a romantic reason is given for the name, to the effect that long, long ago, a lovely Indian maiden of the Minnehaha type used to keep a love tryst with a dusky brave of the tribe just where the river disappears. One night a rejected suitor, led away by the green-eyed monster, followed their trail. During the subsequent desperate affray, the two rival bucks fell into the water and were carried away. The maiden in despair flung herself into the stream too and the three disappeared from human ken, carried away on the bosom of this subterranean stream. It is said that when the moon is in the lover's quarter, the dying wail of the Indian maiden can be heard above the roar of the waters. However this may be, the tragedy did not spoil the fishing in this river, for both branches of the Ghost give excellent results to the angler. This stream joins the Bow River at Radnor, on the C.P.R., and a day's horseback ride will also bring one to the upper waters of the south branch through the Carrot Creek Pass from Duthill on the C.P.R.

CONSOLATION AND MORAINÉ LAKES

These lakes are near the big hotel at Laggan, so need little recommendation at my hand. Consolation gives only Cut Throat fishing, but plenty of that. Flies, of course, may be used here.

At Moraine Lake, you get them all, Dolly Varden, Silver, Cut Throat and Grayling, also Nipigon Trout. There has been in the past month much illegal fishing in this locality owing to the numbers of miners and others working in this vicinity, so that this lake is not as well stocked as the far away lakes, but the hatchery at Banff it is hoped will soon remedy this matter both as regards this lake and also Lake Louise.



A 2-lb. GRAYLING OR ROCKY MOUNTAIN WHITE FISH

JOHNSON CREEK

This creek joins the Bow River 14 miles from Banff, west on the auto road. The creek is not quite so strong on fish as it is on scenery. Here great canyons and wild water will give the camera lover much delight.

At the head of this creek is a lovely lake of the same name. Some say there are fish in it and some say there are not, but as fishermen's statements need to be taken "cum grano salis" and as I have never fished there myself, a definite statement in this regard cannot here be given. I do know that fossil fish have been found up this creek, so that for the paleontologist at least sport is to be found.

PIPESTONE CREEK

This fine stream comes from the Pipestone Summit and joins the Bow River near Laggan. It has many splendid pools on the upper waters and yields fine sport to the fly fisher. Also some good catches can be taken after the high water near Laggan. There is a good pack trail all the way to the summit, affording wild and varied scenic effects which will appeal to the nature lover and artist.

LAKE MINNEWANKA

Little need be said here about this great fishing point. It is a resort in itself. Hotels, steamboats, row-boats and big lake trout are all to be had by the tourist. This lake will also soon be further replenished with young trout from the new hatchery at Banff.

GOAT CREEK

This small stream joins the Spray River eight miles from Banff, near the old lumber camp. Though the fish there are small there are plenty of them. The fly, after the high water is the bait to use. There are some rugged rock formations to be met here. One in particular, of a gentle slope, I would advise anglers to climb carefully over. I once tried to cross it with disastrous results and after leaving a considerable quantity of my clothes and epidermis behind me, I finally slid into the water.

UPPER CASCADE CREEK

Since the power dam has been put in at Lake Minnewanka, this creek empties into that lake, the dam cutting off the run of fish from the mouth of the creek which joins the Bow River below Banff. Cut Throat



A SPRING LAKE CUT THROAT

Trout run large in the upper waters of the creek, where there are many large pools and where fly-fishing may be followed with satisfactory results.

HARRISON LAKE

This lake is situated on the Panther summit and though small in area, about half a mile square, contains some of the best specimens of Cut Throat in the Park, as well as full-grown Silver and Dolly Vardens. Where large sized Cut Throats are to be found good fly-fishing is assured. This little El Dorado for fishermen can

be reached by cayuse train from Banff in two days. The altitude is about 6,000 feet. As all these mountain lakes are composed of unpolluted spring water (that rare thing in America) some idea of the excellence of the fish can be imagined. A game guardian is stationed near the lake to see that no fishermen violate the fishing regulations.

FORTY MILE CREEK

This beautiful stream joins the Bow River at Banff and is the canoe Route to the Vermilion Lakes. It may be successfully fished right up to Mystic Lake and, though no very large fish are to be taken, you get all the different kinds. The baits most used are fly and fresh beef. With shaded mossy banks, steep rocks and dashing water, a hot summer's afternoon can be spent here with pleasure.

THROUGH THE PASSES ON A MOUNTAIN PONY

No one ever seems to say a word for this much abused animal but I at least am his friend and am not ashamed to say it. Though he is said to be as uncertain as a woman, he has, like the ladies, some loveable qualities. Instead of pitching you off the earth, when in these high places I have described, he picks his way as surely as the mountain goat, yet this is what he generally gets in return: If he objects while being packed with a load as big as a house on his perhaps sore back, he is cursed, beaten or kicked. He gets no food unless he rustles for it himself. He is used as a ferry to get you across an icy cold and deep river, then, while you are fishing, for fear he gets away, he is tied to a tree. If he gets tangled up when trying to get a mouthful of sticks or grass he is kicked again and called some more sweet and tender names.

A TRUE STORY

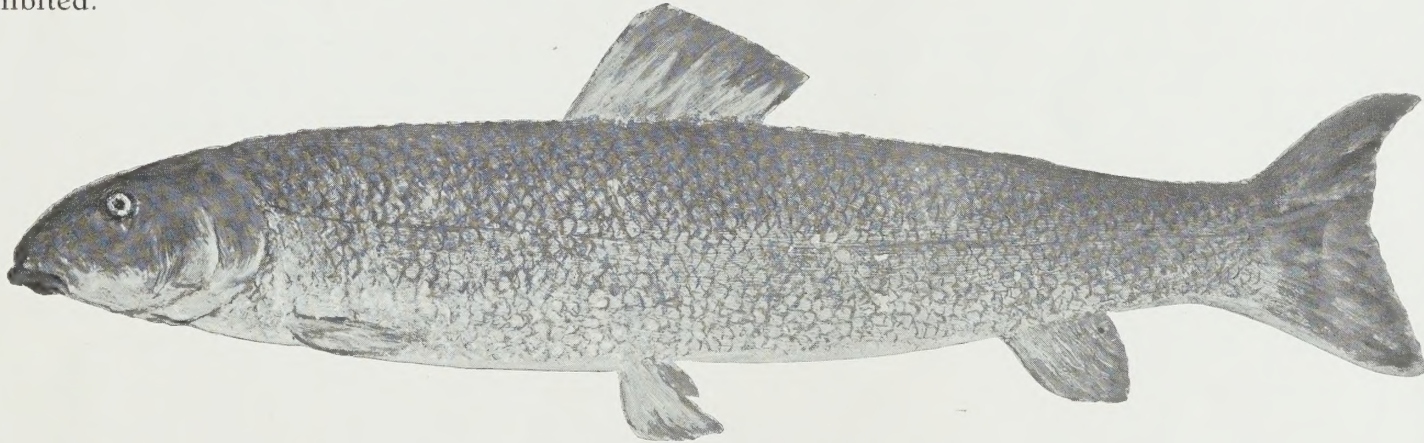
In conclusion, I wish my brother lovers of the rod and reel to understand that this work is not a fabulous account of a fisherman's paradise locked away in faery mountain dells, but a true picture of the unpolluted waters within this great national playground, the Rocky Mountains Park of Canada.

FISHING REGULATIONS IN DOMINION PARKS

No person shall fish for, take, catch or kill, from or in any of the waters of the Parks any fish that inhabit such waters, or attempt so to do, with any kind of net, seine or snare, rack, trap or weir, or night line, or set line, or in any other way than by hook and line.

No person shall use dynamite or any other explosive, or any poison, for the purpose of killing, destroying, injuring, or taking fish in or from the said waters.

Fishing for the purpose, or with the object of selling, bartering or trafficking in the fish so taken is hereby prohibited.



A VERMILION LAKE SPRING SUCKER—MALE

No person shall, in or from the waters of the Parks, kill, retain or carry away any fish less than six inches in length, and when any fish of a length less than six inches is taken or caught the same shall forthwith be returned to the water by the person taking or catching the same without unnecessary injury.

No person shall, in or from the waters of the Parks, kill, retain or carry away, more than fifteen fish in one day.

No fish excepting Lake Trout shall be taken in Rocky Mountains Park or Waterton Lake Park between the thirty-first day of October and the first day of July following; no fish excepting Lake Trout shall be taken in Jasper Park between the thirty-first day of October and the first day of June following.

No Lake Trout shall be taken in Rocky Mountains, Waterton Lake or Jasper Park from the thirty-first day of August to the first day of May following.

Fishing may be prohibited in any of the waters of the Parks, or limited therein to any specified season of the year by the order of the Minister of the Interior.

All nets, seines, fish traps, and all snares, traps or other devices for taking fish and game unlawfully found within any of the Parks, shall be subject to confiscation; and the person or persons in whose possession such nets, seines, traps, snares or other devices are found, shall be subject to the penalties provided by these Regulations.

The outfits of all persons found hunting or trapping, or fishing illegally, or having in their possession game or fish killed within the Parks in contravention of Clauses 61, 64, 65, or 66 of these Regulations; also such game or fish taken or had in possession by such persons, shall be subject to seizure and confiscation; but such seizure and confiscation shall not relieve such persons from the penalties provided for an infraction of these Regulations.



